



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Ninth Street Office Building / 8th Floor
202 North Ninth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3402
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237
www.dmme.virginia.gov

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Contact: Mike Abbott (276) 523-8146
www.dmme.virginia.gov

DMME Announces Public Listening Sessions On Ten-Year Virginia Energy Plan

RICHMOND – The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy today announced the beginning of a series of four public listening sessions across the Commonwealth to receive public comments on the development of a ten-year Virginia Energy Plan. The first session will be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA, on Monday, September 11, 2006, at 6 p.m.

Governor Timothy M. Kaine in May signed **Senate Bill 262** designed to proactively assess and plan for Virginia's energy future. "The development of the Virginia Energy Plan is a key step in establishing how we will develop and conserve our energy resources in a manner that helps protect our environment while promoting continued economic development and vitality in the Commonwealth," Governor Kaine said. "I strongly encourage public involvement in the development of the plan as we continue to define our long-term energy policy."

The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) was named in the legislation to develop a Virginia Energy Plan to address the state's energy issues over the next 10 years. Secretary of Commerce and Trade Patrick O. Gottschalk also encouraged Virginia citizens to attend the listening sessions and let DMME know what they think are important issues to address in the Virginia Energy Plan. "The meetings of the Virginia Energy Plan Advisory Council and subsequent public listening sessions in the coming months will provide invaluable input to the plan, which will address a variety of important issues. These issues include Virginia energy resources and consumption, energy conservation and efficiency, our energy infrastructure, environmental impacts associated with energy production and consumption, and looking to the future – energy research and development."

The schedule of the Public Listening Sessions follows:

- **September 11, 2006**, in the Grand Hall of the **Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center** in

Abingdon, VA. This public listening session is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

- **September 25, 2006**, in the Ernst Center Theatre at **Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, VA.** The Annandale public listening session is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.
- **October 18, 2006**, at the **Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA.** The Lexington listening session is being scheduled along with the Energy Virginia Conference at Virginia Military Institute. The Lexington public listening session will start at 6:30 p.m. You do not have to be registered for the Energy Virginia Conference to come and speak at the public listening session. More information on the Energy Virginia Conference may be found at <http://www.energyvacon.org>.
- **November 2, 2006**, in the **Tidewater Room at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.** The Williamsburg public listening session is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

The Virginia Energy Plan Web site, www.dmme.virginia.gov/VaEnergyPlan, will be updated with the latest information on plan development, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and links to other energy information. The public also may comment on the Virginia Energy Plan through the Web site. Citizens who are unable to attend the public listening sessions are encouraged to provide comments to DMME through the Virginia Energy Plan Web site.

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